GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5841
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
POVERTY ERADICATION SCHEME
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Garibi Hatao Ke Sau Karvakaramon Par Das Hajar Karor: Par Hal Vahi` appearing in `Jansatta` New Delhi edition dated January 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AN PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS.

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Removal of Poverty and creation of an environment which would enable people to give full expression to their abilities is one of the prime concerns of the Government. To achieve the above objectives, the Government has adopted a strategy for reduction of poverty which seeks to accelerate economic growth with a focus on employment intensive sectors, ensure human and social development through basic minimum services and anti-poverty programmes comprising of long term income generating schemes and Employment Assurance Scheme to obviate transient poverty. These Schemes have been in operation for a considerable time. The Schemes are continuously monitored and evaluated. Modifications in Schemes have been carried out periodically to improve their efficacy.

The efforts of the Government both the Central and State Governments have led to a decline in the poverty proportion in the country. The percentage of population below poverty line which was 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 has come down to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. Rural poverty during this period has declined from 56.4 per cent to 37.3 per cent. However, due to the rise in population in the intervening years, the number of people below poverty line has remained at 320 million on an all-India basis. While Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are some of the States which have achieved considerable reduction in poverty, the poverty ratio in Bihar has declined much less and remains fairly high. As against the all-India average of 35.97 per cent of the people below poverty line, 54.96 per cent people in Bihar were below the poverty line in 1993-94. However, greater efforts need to be made in the coming years to launch a frontal assault on poverty.